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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 17, Iss. 4)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

JUSTICE

Official Organ of The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Vol. XVII. No. 4.

Jersey City, N. J., February 15, 1935

Price 10 Cents

Printz-Biederman Signs with I.L.G.W.U.

On February 6, the Printz-Biederman Co., one of the oldest and largest women's coat and suit manufacturers in the country, signed a memorandum of an agreement with the I. L. G. W. U. after conferences in Washington and New York City. After the settlement, President Dubinsky issued the following public statement:

"This is the first time since 1906 that the Printz-Biederman firm has reentered into contractual relations with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. During this long interval, the Printz-Biederman firm has maintained a shop-employee organization. We have always desired that this firm should be a party to the collective agreements prevailing in the industry. Notwithstanding many efforts on the part of the Union, the firm has, nevertheless, successfully resisted signing an agreement with it.

"Under the present arrangement, the Union, in granting the workers employed by the Printz-Biederman firm a separate local, under the direct

supervision of the General Executive Board, is departing from its usual method of chartering new organizations. We consider this new method of employer-employee relations, as expressed in this instance, as best adapted to the special needs of the workers in this factory, and for the solution of their specific shop problems.

"I regard this settlement as a contribution to the general spirit of the times and as an expression of a genuine desire on the part of both parties to do their utmost towards national economic recovery."

Details of the agreement, such as work conditions, employment of union members only and impartial machinery for settlement of disputes, were left to Dr. Arthur Rubin, of the University of Chicago, both sides undertaking to sign such an agreement and to carry it out. Dr. Rubin, who is Deputy Director of the Coat and Suit Authority in Chicago, was also named permanent impartial chairman.

Strike Wave Grips Mid-West Cotton Dress Factories

1,000 Workers Employed by Forest City Firm, in St. Louis, Mo., and Collinsville, Ill., On Strike—One-Day Strike Brings Success in Fort Wayne, Ind.—Strike Impending in Decatur, Ill.—Pre-Strike Meetings Stir Chicago—Minneapolis Employers Sign.

The following telegram from Meyer Perlstein, Middle West I.L.G.W.U. general organizer:

"Minneapolis silk dress almost completely settled. Signed four individual agreements with the leading silk dress firms in this city. All workers joined the Union. Next task is the organization of the Boulevard Frock Co., large cotton dress firm. Expect to have firm signed up shortly."

Another message from Perlstein, from St. Louis:

"Strike in Forest City Co.'s two plants, in St. Louis, Mo., and Collinsville, Ill., declared on February 6. Firm employs 1,000 people. Response of workers marvelous. St. Louis shop being picketed by two squads of union workers."

Chicago, Decatur, Fort Wayne in line

From Chicago, Vice-President Morris Blatta wires:

"Strike in Pollak Brothers, Fort Wayne, Ind., ordered on the 5th of February. 350 workers responded loyally. Firm renewed agreement after one-day strike, conceding every demand of the workers. Strike impending in Decatur, Ill., cotton dress shops. Fight being waged for enforcement of union work terms and for renewal of agreements."

"Great pre-strike meeting of cotton garment workers held in Chicago on Friday, February 8, with John Fitzpatrick, president, of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and Morris Blatta, I.L.G.W.U. Vice President, as speakers.

The Bosses' Ideal of A "Desirable" Code



Suggested by the Speeches of Messrs. Flanders, Edgerton, West, et al., Master-minds and Spokesmen of Industry, at Public Hearings on Employment Policy Before National Industrial Recovery Board at Washington, D. C., January 30 February 1.

Cloak Code Authority Sustains "Limitation" Rule

Rejects American Association Request for Elimination of Contractor Limit Clause.

At a full meeting of the Coat and Suit Code Authority, on February 7, at 131 West 29th Street, New York City, George W. Allen, presiding, the official request presented by the American Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association, the contractors' group, through its manager, Harry Vellier, for the elimination of the clause of contractor limitation from the Code, was denied.

The contractors based their demand on the allegation that contractor limitation was creating undue advantages for inside workers and disadvantages for the outside shops. After a debate which lasted several hours, with Vice-President Isidore Neider, championing the cause of contractor limitation, the Authority voted to sustain it.

Raincoat Union Sets Conditions For Change

Will Accept Piece-Work Only With Wage Guarantee, no Contracting, Inside Shops

If New York rainwear manufacturers are prepared to offer a minimum guarantee of \$1 an hour, open inside shops, confine all work to New York and abolish contracting, Raincoat Makers' Union, Local 20, of the I.L.G.W.U., would be ready to change the present system of break-work to piece-work.

Though the present collective agreement does not expire until July 30, the Union would agree to a change before expiration, on the basis of the above conditions, Ray Kessler said. He estimated, however, that manufacturers, seeking piece-work, do so without guarantee of any sort in mind.

Coat and Dressmakers in Cincinnati

Head of Atlanta Dress Firm Hold for "Chiseling" by U. S. District Attorney

Samuel Lincoln, president of the Princess Mitt Company of Atlanta, Ga., and owner of the largest dress factory in Cincinnati, Ohio, was arrested in Atlanta, on January 31, on orders of the Federal District Attorney of the Atlanta District and slated for commitment for the following day.

The charge against the Princess firm was that it attempted to evade by subterfuge back pay regulations owed to workers employed in its shop, by covering these workers to return the restitution checks under penalty of discharge.

The first agreement reached with the seven dress makers in December, 1933, included the Princess concern. That contract contained a stipulation of a 25 per cent increase of the piece rates prevailing at that time. The increase is to remain in effect until such time as the representative of the Union and the employers could mutually agree on rates that would yield the average worker at least the minimum wage scale maintained by the Dress Code classification.

Regional Board Grants Favorable Decision

The effort to bring all of the members of the local association together at this time, however, proved impossible, with the result that during April 1934, the Atlanta I.L.G.W.U. local was compelled to call upon the Atlanta N.R.A. Compliance Board to begin a check-up in the "practically honest" dress firms on violations. Owing to lack of personnel, this check-up, nevertheless, was delayed until late Spring, when the complaints reached the Regional Labor Board. On February 10, in April 6 the Board rendered a decision which was very favorable to the workers, granting restitution pay in all the seven dress shops involved. The back pay ranged from \$144 in one shop to \$1,653 in another.

The arrest of Mr. Lincoln grew out of his firm's alleged attempts to evade payment of this restitution money.

RAY OWENS NOW KANSAS CITY UNION AGENT; UNION SEEKS DONNELLY NEGOTIATIONS

Ray Owens, a cutter by trade, has been designated local representative of the I.L.G.W.U., taking the place of Ed Goldberger, also a cutter, who resigned on account of ill health.

An invitation to cooperate in effecting satisfactory adjustment of work regulations in their factory was forwarded earlier in the month to the Donnelly Garment Co. in a letter signed jointly by Meyer Perlstein, on behalf of the I.L.G.W.U., and Virginia Brown, president of the Donnelly Garment Workers' Union, No. 124.

In that letter a request is made for an opportunity to "present and submit labor's views and to work out peacefully and equitably the problem of uniform and adequate wage scales, protection for the experienced workers, the determination of piece work rates and all other problems jointly affecting your organization and our members."

Paying Price for Union Affiliation

When they came next day to their shops, these new applicants proudly announced their affiliation with the union and began to urge the other workers to join. It did not take, however, very long before they were fired, one by one, and within a short time some major dressmaking shops, the short local organizations, were closed down on the Cincinnati side. The short local organizations were in no position to take care of them and when they appealed to the local N.R.A. board, which consisted of employers and even owners of labor, their complaints were ignored.

The discontent of these discharged workers, who were left in a distressed condition, soon grew into a bitter feeling against the Union. The local then appealed to President Dubinsky to send someone to Cincinnati to take care of the situation, and the president referred the case to Vice-President of the Union of Cleveland. In the meantime, however, the employers took advantage of the antagonism against the discharged dressmakers against the Union and at the same time did everything in their power to intimidate the workers from joining the local. The workers were so frightened at the prospect of losing their jobs that they would not be even

seen speaking to a union member in the garment district.

Showdown Brings Results

Brother Katsenky's visit to Cincinnati brought new life to the members of Local 61. His first step was to bring some order into the organized cloak shops and to make them more unified. Katsenky has been negotiating with the dress employers and when the latter refused to have anything to do with the Union, he succeeded, with the aid of an organization committee, in organizing the majority of the Princess factory.

On his second visit to Cincinnati, he found the Le-Vine shop 75 per cent organized. He renewed his attempts to negotiate with the firm, but this time, after the threat of a strike, he succeeded in obtaining an agreement from the Le-Vine firm for a preferential union shop. The contract was for one year, with provision for an impartial chairman in case of disputes between the Union and the firm.

Equal Work in Slack Time

Before the shop was organized, it was a common custom in this shop, during the slack season, for non-union girls to earn \$10 a week while the union girls would earn \$2 or

less. After the contract was signed, the foreladies tried to discriminate in the same manner against the union girls, but so soon as I found this out, I forced the firm to divide the work equally among all the girls, regardless of whether they belong to the union or not. By this, I wanted to bring to the non-union girls that in spite of the fact that they would be asked to stay away from the Union, the Union is ready to protect their interests. Nevertheless, even this attempt is being exploited by the foreladies to incite the union girls not to pay dues, pointing out to them that the non-union girls are getting the same benefits without any payments at all. We, therefore, determined to demand, when the time comes to renew the agreement, a closed shop organization as a pre-condition of work for union members in the slack season. On January 21, we had installation of officers of our new executive body, which is a joint board in miniature. We have all crafts of the cloak and dress trades represented on this executive group, each one of them loyal and eager to put his shoulder to the wheel and to build up a strong union in Cincinnati and to have the entire dress trade organized.

About our activities in the other shops, the non-union factories, I shall write in my next letter.

Enforcing Averages in Cloak Shops

By Charles H. Green
Director Codes Observation Bureau

It is needless to say that the wages and work conditions in these shops, prior to the advent of the Dress Code, were the worst imaginable. The best mechanics could not earn more than \$2 a week, while the majority made from \$2 to \$7.

Immediately after the N.R.A. was proclaimed, the cloakmakers, all of the old union men, reorganized their local and soon after the dress cutters, the majority of whom were at one time cloak cutters, joined them. Now, the coat and the dressmakers have one united local, Number 63. As soon as they reformed their local, they presented demands to the employers and got them out of a struggle. The local cutters got their Code scales and the dress cutters, who were working on piece rates, got a flat price of \$35 a week. Just that time, the so-called Clothing Workers called a meeting of all the needle trades workers in the city, with the Mayor of Cincinnati as the principal speaker, where the then famous "A. A. the workers' Bill of Rights" was proclaimed, guaranteeing them that they could organize into unions without interference by employers. At that meeting, about sixty dressmakers signed applications which were turned over to the reorganized Local 63.

The Code Authority has made over one hundred thousand studies which have resulted in a formula by which piece rates can be so fixed as to assure the payment of averages in those shops which have heretofore undermined the legitimate unionized shops by paying minimums only. This formula is now being applied to these clothing shops. The N.R.A. is determined that the sweat shoppers and the chiselers shall no longer undermine conditions in the shops which operate in the spirit of the New Deal under collective agreements with the Union.

Error-Proof Formula

The new formula has already been installed in one of the larger, cloak and suit manufacturer establishments. It appears to be working out properly, and the Code Authority will force its installation on other manufacturers who are paying the minimums, as rapidly as it can get to them.

This is a complete victory, not only for the workers whose wage basis was being undermined, but

for the legitimate employers as well.

Michel Chekhov and His Moscow Art Players

The Moscow Art Players will appear at the Majestic Theatre, 46th Street, West of Broadway, beginning February 18. Through a special arrangement with the Educational Department, four performances have been set aside in which I.L.G.W.U. members may secure tickets at the following rates: 150 tickets at the price 10c; 100, 15c; 100, 20c; 100, 25c. The four special performances for the I.L.G.W.U. members are as follows:

Feb. 19—"Revisor," by Gogol; Feb. 21—"Poverty is No Crime" by Ostrovsky; Feb. 24—"Strange Child" by Bakst; (vision comedy), and Feb. 25—"Marriage" by Gogol.



Despite Injunction and Hired Goons the Picket Line Around the L. N. Gross Co., Cotton Dress Factory in Cleveland and Kent, Ohio, Grows Stronger Each Day—Every Union in Cleveland and Kent Furnishing Its Quota of Pickets—With Song on Their Lips and Courage in Their Hearts Round the Factories They March.

JUSTICE

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Vol. XVII, No. 2, February 15, 1935

From Coast To Coast with Modigliani

By Serafino Romualdi

Seattle, Wash.,
January 25, 1935.

Climaxed by a big mass meeting held here in Seattle last night, the first leg of Giuseppe E. Modigliani's lecture tour, under the auspices of the International Union, has come to its close. Now, we are getting ready to leave for the Pacific Coast, and then back again to the Atlantic seaboard.

A little too strenuous, I admit, has been the task of Brother Modigliani; yet, he is still saying that his trip has not been too fatiguing for him. To a certain extent, this is true. The anti-Fascist movement among the Italians in the United States is an old movement, though lately confined, almost exclusively, to the adherents of the various radical movements, with a sprinkling, here and there, of liberals, Masons and Intellectuals. The influence of Italian organizations directly controlled by agents of the Italian government, helped considerably to weaken the voice of the anti-Fascist groups. And the result was that even in those lands where the Italian-speaking members—more as a result of ignorance than of conviction—had openly begun to advocate the "coming of a Mussolini in America," they were "checked." They have had here, and in some degree, we still have, organized forces of an alien government trying in every way to undermine the basic principle of democratic government. It is a privilege, therefore, for the I. L. G. W. U. to have been among the first to realize this danger. Now, with its open-sided mass meetings, its cooperation with its decision to sponsor the lecture tour of Modigliani, the pioneering group of old and somewhat tired anti-Fascists has been augmented by new localities by new elements in the common fight against the menace of Fascism.

Gone, then, is the time when an anti-Fascist speaker had to satisfy himself with an audience of a few young men and women. We need to say, then, "We cannot go anywhere unless we can organize labor on our side!" Well, here is organized labor coming! The I. L. G. W. U. has blessed the trail!

And what a change, now! Localities where never before our Italian anti-Fascist had been able to appear are now daily on our side. Meetings are packed. Enthusiasm is rising to a high pitch. I have heard veterans of the Italian anti-Fascist movement express their gratitude to the International for having given for the anti-Fascist movement what it lacked before, the support of organized workers.

Before Mr. and Mrs. Modigliani and myself left New York, on Sunday, January 8, Modigliani had delivered, during the month of December, aside from his activities sponsored and arranged by Local 39, four radio speeches, had appeared before countless meetings of men and officers of our local unions, and had visited many localities along the Atlantic seaboard. The readers of "Justice" know of the successful meetings held in Buffalo, N. Y., and New Haven, Conn. We must also not forget the meetings in Boston, so successfully arranged by the New England Council of the Needle Trades Union—in Providence, R. I., where harbingers and textile workers joined with a committee of the Socialist Party and anti-Fascist organizations; in Philadelphia, Pa., for the inauguration of the headquarters of the Amalgamated



Vice-President Rosa Rosetti (right) and Serafino Romualdi posing announcement of Modigliani's lecture tour on the Pacific Coast, Labor Lyceum, Seattle, Wash.

Clothing Workers; in Paterson, N. J., where Morris Bacharoff, in cooperation with Brother Frank Lambert, had organized a committee in which were represented five labor unions; in Union City, N. J., where the Italian Cooperative put its beautiful auditorium at our disposal, while Brother William Altman, manager of Dressmakers' Union, Local 18, together with the representatives of other labor unions and of the Socialist Party, as well as the Italian members of the executive board of Local 145, had an easy task in arranging an overflow meeting! In all these localities, considerable donations and very substantial collections were taken up to help our Italian brothers in their struggle against Fascism.

On January 7 and 8, Modigliani addressed very successful meetings in Vineland and Hammonton, N. J., arranged by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, and on January 9, in Baltimore, Md., at which Vice-President Luigi Anselmi was also present. The hall was filled to capacity as a result of the marvelous preparations made by the officers of our Joint Board and those of the Italian local of the Amalgamated. Then there was brief appearance before the Baltimore Federation of Labor; interviews with local newspapers, including the Baltimore Sun, which was very generous in its write-up

and a banquet after the lecture he delivered. Vice-President Charles Kreindler, Sister Angela Banabac and Ulisse De Dominicis of the Amalgamated are to be compensated for the success of the arrangements in that city.

The following day, January 10, we arrived in Washington, D. C. A reception at the Arlington Hotel was held in the evening, with our hosts, Mr. and Mrs. De Dominicis, as postmaster, and a long list of prominent speakers, including Col. Rogers, of the Scottish Rite Masonic organization; Ben McManis, of the Jewish Daily Forward, and others. An interview, arranged by President Dubinsky, who was then in Washington, took place the next day with President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, who pledged unlimited support to Brother Modigliani and spoke warmly on his mission to the United States. In the evening, there was a lecture before the packed house at the Typographical Temple. We observed in the audience Frank Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor; Banti, of the Washington Post; Puerto Rico, and many other distinguished personalities. There were also some Fascists in the hall who obviously had come to trouble, but they left the place upon sober thinking, leaving behind a temple of their followers to utter some insipid remarks that made the audience roll with laughter.

Accompanied by Congressman Vito Marcantonio of New York, Camille Modigliani was shown the buildings of the House of Representatives and the Senate, where he remained for a while to wait the president, who, by the parliamentary leader of the Italian Socialist Party for fifteen years, observing the workings of America's parliament!

On January 13 and 15, we visited Pittsburgh and St. Louis, respectively. Pittsburgh gave us a genuine surprise. Minors, some of them in old, battered uniforms, had traveled, on a rainy day, as much as ninety miles to attend the lecture, which took place in the afternoon at Moore Hall. With only the I. L. G. W. U. Hall of local, we were not exposing much in Pittsburgh, but the crowd actually amazed us! And how enthusiastic were those miners, veterans of many battles, eager to fight, to be able to fight better in the future! I had hope of scale meeting for the first time in more than ten years, many old-timers of the Italian Socialist Fed-

eration, which I had helped to organize, shortly after my arrival from Italy. But how conditions have changed!

Pittsburgh is really the first city that can give a New Yorker traveling West the first impressions of what is still America in 1935. Tons of suffering, of unemployment, of struggle for a decent relief grant from men who have given us all hope that the days of "war" and "red" can never come back in those years, too, the miners' shack looked as ugly as it looks today, and, inside, the pantry was well stocked, and never would the housewife remove from the table the bottle of wine, the bread, cheese and salt. Now, according to what I heard, in the mining districts, the children frequently go hungry.

From the labor union standpoint, the United Mine Workers have come back exceedingly strong, and their members do get good wages when there is work. But here is the core of the situation, the United Mine Workers on an average of two days a week, what can "good wages" do to keep the wolf away from the door?

Still, the union is the only agency that can give them miners' education. The Italian Socialist Federation, the Italian League for Men's Rights, and the officers of the Italian local of the Amalgamated, in particular, do really deserve the highest of praise for their activity in connection with Modigliani's trip to Chicago.

SPOKANE: Not scheduled to stop there, and we did not stay. Simply got off the train to greet a group of friends who had sent us a note waiting for the train. But what a surprise faced us when we found the waiting room of the station completely given over to more than 250 comrades who had gathered at a few hours' notice. Cheers and greetings and a brief address, while Mr. Modigliani was so touched by this spontaneous demonstration that tears filled his eyes.

The comrades of Spokane had just by chance found out from someone in Seattle that Modigliani was due to arrive there on Friday morning, the 25th. So they figured that he would pass through Spokane late Thursday evening, and in a few hours, going from house to house, they were able to organize such a glorious and unexpected greeting.

Of our stay on the Pacific Coast, there is so much to write that I had better reserve all the news for a separate correspondence in the next issue.

Don't be a Robot

Think for yourself



our hymns as the train slowly pulled out of the station.

President Dubinsky, who had to be in Chicago on Saturday, January 15, on union business, found time to appear briefly at the banquet given in honor of Modigliani that night at the Amalgamated Centre, and was highly complimented by the cheering crowd. He spoke in turn, for having made possible the lecture tour of Modigliani. President Dubinsky was visibly pleased over the moral success of Modigliani's tour.

The Joint Boards of the International and of the Amalgamated, and their managers, Brothers Blais and Levine, respectively, as well as the Italian Socialist Federation, the Italian League for Men's Rights, and the officers of the Italian local of the Amalgamated, in particular, do really deserve the highest of praise for their activity in connection with Modigliani's trip to Chicago.

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I.L.G.W.U. CONTRIBUTES
\$7,500 TO CHARITY

A contribution of \$7,500 was sent to the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropies, Societies of New York City by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

President Dubinsky, in a letter to Judge Joseph M. Frankfurter, Federation president, said that, of the sum, \$3,500 is contributed by the I.L.G.W.U. direct, \$2,000 by the New York Dress Joint Board, \$1,000 by the Cloak Joint Board, and \$1,000 by miscellaneous locals. President Dubinsky concludes the letter by stating:

"Our International Union and all its component parts traditionally and invariably have regarded themselves as integral parts of this great community. . . . As long as Federation, through its various channels, and agencies, serves the masses, we are certain that our members will respond warmly to the needs of your institutions and will lend them their support."



The Men and Women Who Led the Racine Rubber Co. Strike

30-Hour Week, Classified Wages, Bi-Party Codes

Address by David Dubinsky, President, I.C.S.W.U., Delivered at the Public Hearing on Employment Policy Before National Industrial Recovery Board, Feb. 1, 1935, Washington, D. C.

I speak on behalf of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which has the privilege and the good fortune to start the New Deal period on the basis of a 35-hour work week for 175,000 of its members representing 75 per cent of the workers employed in the women's wear industry. I speak on behalf of an organized industry which has wage classifications in the most important trades, and in my remarks I shall endeavor to bring to you the experience resulting from participating with equal rights in the most important code authorities functioning in this industry.

The Only Cure

Let me say from the outset that I fully and without reservation subscribe to the principle of the American Federation of Labor that only the shorter workweek can solve the distressing problem of unemployment and supply jobs to the millions. In the women's wear industry, we had adopted this policy long before the present depression set in, namely, that the only cure for unemployment is the shorter workweek. In 1923, ours was one of the first important industries in America to adopt the 30-hour week in order to absorb the growing number of unemployed which resulted at that time from the introduction of simpler styles in women's garments and various technical improvements in production. Still, until the middle of 1929, we had in the cloak and dress trades tens of thousands of unemployed, in New York, in Chicago, in Philadelphia, in Boston and in other markets of women's wear. We had at that time a work-week which ranged from 40 hours in the organized centers to 55 or 60 hours in the non-union localities. The reduction of these work hours to 30 per week resulted at once in a wider spread of employment, giving jobs to thousands of workers who until then could not obtain any work in the shops.

But even today, despite the 30-hour week, there is still unemployment in the women's garment trades. There are still thousands of workers without permanent jobs in our industry and we are fully convinced that nothing else but a shorter work-week could give our industry an opportunity to absorb this reserve army of unemployed women who depend upon this industry for a living, who know no other trade, and who must support their families and themselves by doing garment, dressmaking or similar garment making. And it is quite evident to me that what holds good for the garment trade would apply with equal force to every other trade and industry.

Overtime, Classified

On the question of overtime our position is just as clear. Overtime, we claim, should be entirely prohibited so long as there is unemployment in an industry, and as a matter of fact, permission to work overtime even during peak seasons tends to defeat that regularity of employment which the code seeks to bring about. About 10 per cent of overtime—and I am speaking now of the apparel industries—would tend to spread the employment, and we are of the opinion that the world would mean employ-

ment for the many instead of plenty for the few, and a much lower overhead for the manufacturers.

In our industry we have accumulated considerable experience. We maintain that codes should contain minimum wage classifications for all crafts. In the women's garment codes, which our organization has direct part in framing and maintaining, such wage rates are provided for all crafts. The fundamental wage which we have in these codes is intended for the unskilled. For the unskilled workers of the workers in each trade, however, we have classified wage scales based on craft. The result has been that in these trades the wage level for the skilled workers has been protected. Those who defend the single minimum scale and are opposed to wage classifications would leave the majority of the workers in any trade unprotected and subject to the convenience and one-sided interests of the employers only.

It was stated here yesterday that the minimum wage is not a code. We have no classifications but one minimum, that minimum does not tend to become the maximum, and that this minimum is only for the unskilled. The maximum, we are told, however, the contrary. The reports submitted by the statistical department of the Cotton Garment Code Authority prove that in that industry the wage scale was a production code from the factories and the basic minimum was being paid only to the more skilled workers, so that the minimum actually became the maximum. We are in danger when our codes were being written, and owing to the fact that we had an organized industry. The maximum wage classification was not only a part of our collective agreements, but also a part of the code.

The Black Spot of Industry

The failure to provide wage classifications creates unfair competition. Let me cite you a striking illustration. We had for years a production market of cloaks, dresses and underwear in the strip of territory lying close to New York, running approximately from Hartford, Connecticut, down to Camden, New Jersey. There were about 20,000 people, mostly young women, employed in these garment factories, which were considered, until 1932, as the black spot of the worst part of the garment industry. They used to work 60 and 70 hours a week; the girls would be getting disgruntled, low wages, and the conditions in general were unbearable. In 1932 we organized these women and established decent working conditions in their shops. They got a code, and that code contained wage classifications which were enforced today. If we did not have classified wage scales, but one minimum basic scale, what would be the result? The 20,000 women employed in these towns, and what would have happened to the workers in the bigger markets, such as New York, Philadelphia, and other cities? Do you know what the result would have been? Not only would the minimum in their cases have become the maximum, but they were asked to work overtime and play the very devil with the wage standards which were established for the workers in the major centers. And what I am on this point, I recall the gentleman who spoke here yesterday for the Connecticut Manufacturers' Association, and who was formerly distressed with the conditions as part of industry. That gentleman stated that wage classifica-



DAVID DUBINSKY

man stated that wage classifications were tried in England, in France and even in China, but failed everywhere. Let me refer him to the cities of New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport and Norwalk. These cities are not in China, they are in our own State of Connecticut, and in these cities thousands of cloakmakers and dressmakers are earning fairer wages because their codes provide wage classifications.

Bi-Party Codes

Let me now go over to another point. We insist that labor must have the right to participate in the making of the amending of codes, servers or protectors. It is an abhorrence or protectors. It is an acknowledgment that the labor has the right to participate in the making of such codes as were framed and put through by the employers, alone, but labor does have confidence in those few codes that were written with the participation of their own representatives. Only those codes where collective bargaining was a real factor provide an opportunity for better enforcement.

And now that we are on the point of enforcement, I want to say the following: We have had a very big and interesting experience with this problem of enforcement of code regulations or what is generally known as code compliance. We have found it to be invariably the fact that in such codes where labor has participated in the making of them, even though they provide comparatively higher "classified" wages and the 30-hour work week, the labor provisions are more uniformly enforced. On the other hand, in such ladies' apparel codes where we were deprived of active code enforcement, and where only the basic minimum of 112 a week and longer work hours exist, there is hardly any enforcement at all. I am, therefore, firmly convinced that the first essential to compliance with code regulations is that labor be represented on every code authority and that a labor representative be given power equal to that of the industry representative. This, in my judgment, the key to the entire question of compliance and observance.

What Became of Partnership?

When the New Deal was first promulgated it was proclaimed as a "partnership" between industry and labor under the supervision of the government. Where is that partnership today? Who is more competent to enforce labor provisions in an industry than labor itself? Who has a greater stake in

the labor provisions governing an industry than labor itself? By what standard of fair play does the Administration help in side-tracking labor from participating in the making of an industry's code?

Code authorities should be made definitely responsible for code enforcement; they should be required to raise funds sufficient to maintain a staff of investigators for the adequate enforcement of the code. They should be held responsible by the government for effective enforcement of the code. But even if code authorities are held responsible, effective code compliance can be brought about only through the greater speed in final disposition of cases. Code violations should be prosecuted by the legal arm of the government. The workers have lost confidence in the codes because of the dilatory tactics employed by the Administration in bringing violators to account. As it stands now, the employers may violate codes with impunity.

And, finally, if labor's confidence in the codes is to be restored, the government must prosecute cases of violation of Section 7A. Labor feels that the promise of NRA has not been performed. Employers violate the provisions of Clause 7A, secure in the knowledge that nothing will happen to them. We maintain that an employer is just as much a lawbreaker when he violates Section 7A as when he violates any other provision of the code, and yet it is common knowledge that Section 7A has been the least enforced and the most neglected part of the National Recovery Act.

"Voluntary" and Industry Cooperation

Let me conclude. As I listened here to the suggestions made by representatives of industry that the code should be made "voluntary" and that we should rely on employers to enforce it, I wondered whether these gentlemen thought that we have poor memories.

Let us see what has happened in this employers' cooperation. Last May, the National Recovery Act was repealed, and the unemployment problem, issued a call to industry and

management to reduce hours and to hire additional help. Did industry respond to that call in a spirit of cooperation? "Do it now!" the President exhorted the managers of industry in an effort to speed the employment of his workers—but did industry come forward with a voluntary cut in work-hours in response to that appeal? Not a single industry responded to the appeal.

And, without more than a year has passed, not one industry has made an attempt to reduce its work hours. On the contrary, where such an attempt was made, industry obstructed and sabotaged every such effort. Let me cite a mere concrete example: Last August, President Roosevelt issued an executive order to reduce the work hours in the cotton garment industry from 40 to 35 to help absorb the unemployed workers of the industry. Only a small number of the cotton garment manufacturers responded in a spirit of voluntary cooperation to that order? Not at all! They fought it for months, and it took President Roosevelt's intervention with the Supreme Court for an injunction to stop the executive order. They did not succeed because the court told them in plain language that they had no authority of the President to shorten hours, but his duty to do so. This is a case which comes to my mind when I hear this talk about voluntary codes and cooperation. The way things appear to me, it is mandatory and clear-cut legislation which could help the situation and nothing else. It is the only way to bring the situation which has been the first in American industry to introduce the shorter work-week as a means of providing jobs for its employees. We are in danger of being heartily for the 30-hour week as the only positive and dependable measure that could give employment to millions of unemployed people. The industry itself in this price duty that is facing it, labor in cooperation with all constructive elements should demand from Congress enactment of a shorter work-week. It is part of the living wage of our economic fabric.

Cross-Examination of Dubinsky by Whiteside

MR. WHITESIDE: You spoke of code authority representation and implied the requirement of having labor represented on codes. You mean the laboring man represented through selected representatives?

MR. DUBINSKY: Right.

MR. WHITESIDE: Would you take exception to having representatives on code authorities other than representatives of the American Federation of Labor?

MR. DUBINSKY: I would, because we cannot devise a workable system having representatives of unorganized workers, except those affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

MR. WHITESIDE: It is possible that there could be representation by vote of the employees in any industry? Take a small industry. Could it possibly have sufficient intelligence among its members to select a proper representative to sit on a code authority?

MR. DUBINSKY: No. They might be intelligent, but they are not free from coercion and I would not advise it. Labor should consider it an additional employee-member sitting in the guise of a laborer.

MR. WHITESIDE: You spoke of the necessity for labor representa-

tion because of the lack of enforcement, compliance. If we had no enforcement or if we did have enforcement, would that eliminate the necessity for labor representation?

MR. DUBINSKY: No.

MR. WHITESIDE: Why should labor be represented for other purposes than that particular purpose which you have just brought out? There is a real question in the view of industry, in this regard, coincides with that of the Communists, who hold that labor should not participate in these various codes. It is a question of the employers, and that labor should not recognize or have anything to do with it. And so does industry.

MR. WHITESIDE: Is there any fundamental reality, why they should be represented on these code authorities?

MR. DUBINSKY: While labor has been considerably helped, industry is still suffering from having labor sit in on the councils of the code authorities.

MR. WHITESIDE: I want to say this questionably, you say that there is no deal with Sidney Hillman, in eliminating the sweat shop situation in this industry than anybody else, and you deserve credit.

« « New York Dressmakers' Section » »

Dressmaker-Poet

❖ What Every Dressmaker Should Know ❖

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE AGREEMENT

By Julius Hochman
General Manager Dress Joint Board

In the last installment we carried the "cross-examination of the Agreement" through part of the questions relating to the settlement of prices. In this issue we continue that and go into other important sections. While I am trying to cover the ground in such a way that everything will be complete as well as simple, there may be other questions in the minds of Union members. Please address any question at all about the Agreement to the Dressmakers' Section "Justice" at the Joint Board, 218 West 40th Street, and I will group the answers in a "question box" to run with this series in other issues of JUSTICE. Now continue where you left off in the February 1 issue.

Question: How are prices settled?

Answer: Our present system of price settlement is not the best possible system. The Union has prepared a scientific system of price settlement which we hope to introduce soon.

Question: How is the present system used?

Answer: When the Employer and the Price Committee fail to agree, the garment in dispute shall be submitted to a test.

Question: Who makes the test?

Answer: One of the workers in the shop who is chosen as the "test hand."

Question: Who chooses the test hand?

Answer: The test hand is chosen by the Employer and the Price Committee.

Question: How is the price of the garment to be determined?

Answer: The price of the garment shall be determined by such test hand and shall be equal to the established hourly rate of the test hand multiplied by the number of hours it takes such test hand to make a garment.

Question: How is the hourly rate established?

Answer: Two garments of different styles on which prices have been previously settled, one to be chosen by each party, shall be given to the test hand, who is to do the work without interruption or interference. The time consumed on the work of such garment shall be recorded by both parties.

The garment so tested shall be made under the same conditions as stock work. No garment on which the average earnings of the worker have been less than the minimum schedule of its work rates shall be selected for such test.

The amount earned by the test hand in making such settled garment, divided by the number of hours consumed, shall determine the established hourly rate of the test

hand, the price in no event to be less than such as would yield to the minimum operator 90¢ per hour for a continuous hour of work.

Question: When are garments resettled?

Answer: Garments are resettled when it is established that the piece price was settled below the base rate; for example, when a representative number of the workers do not earn such base rate, such price must be resettled.

Question: Do the workers get back pay for those garments worked below the base rate?

Answer: Yes. All workers paid at the original rate are entitled to the increase fixed by the resettlement for each garment formerly done upon such work.

Question: Are you expected to work on garments that have not been settled?

Answer: If you work for a contractor, no. All work must be settled before you begin to work on a certain garment.

Question: Is the firm permitted to reduce any prices or wages?

Answer: No. Once prices are settled there is to be no reduction whatsoever.

JOBBER'S RESPONSIBILITY IN CONTRACTING SHOPS

Question: Who is responsible for your wages?

Answer: The contractor.

Question: Who else?

Answer: The jobber. The claim has to be filed with the jobber within 3 days after the contractor failed to pay the workers and for wages for one full week and two days.

Question: Who is responsible for the minimum?

Answer: The jobber must pay the contractor enough to cover union wages.

Question: If this is not done?

Answer: A complaint is to be filed against the jobber immediately upon receipt of wages.

LEGAL HOLIDAYS

Question: What are the legal holidays observed in the dress industry?

Answer: Washington's Birthday,

Decoration Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and one-half of Election Day.

Question: Are all workers to be paid for these holidays?

Answer: Only week workers are to receive full pay for the holidays.

Question: Are all workers supposed to stop work on May 1st?

Answer: No. But if a worker does not work on May 1st, the firm could not consider this as a violation of the agreement on the part of the worker.

Question: Are workers permitted not to work on Columbus Day?

Answer: Workers may refrain from working on Columbus Day if they so desire.

Question: Do they get paid for this day if they do not work?

Answer: No.

Question: Is a change of system of work permitted in any shop?

Answer: Yes. When the change of system is agreed upon between the workers and the firm with the approval of the Union and the Association.

Question: Are wages to be paid by cash or check?

Answer: Wages are to be paid by cash only.

Question: How soon after work shall wages be paid?

Answer: Wages shall include all work completed forty-eight hours before pay day.

Question: What are the legal holidays observed in the dress industry?

Answer: Washington's Birthday,

Martha Stevenson

From a farm in Maine to a New York dress shop.

From a spirit of New England "individualism" to a feeling for the brotherly solidarity that is the soul of unionism.

From pretty little poems about grass and flowers and other inconsequentialities to vital poetry about the struggles of the workers — to poetry that finds vast stimulation in the working class as a theme!

That, in brief, is the history of Martha Stevenson, an active member of our Union, Local 25, who earns her living as a finisher and "tweeder" as a poet. Just as the lives of her fellow workers give her the key to her songs, so her own experiences reflect some of the drama and human interest that thrub in our great membership.

Martha did have much of anything on that work-out farm near Augusta, Maine, where her father slaved away without ever discovering that a farmer was a worker and subject to the same economic laws. Martha would have been chained to the farm had not her excellent work in school earned enough scholarships to give her a start in college. But the lack of money, that beguiles of all workers in their efforts to get what is called "a higher education," thrust an economic hurdle in the way of her diploma.

"Somehow, I'm glad that it happened," Martha is fond of saying. "There are many kinds of education."

And there were for Martha.

The year, 1931, found her in Boston, where she battled for a living in a dozen different ways. She "cashed" as a short order cook, did typing, tasted the hopes and the failures of the hack writer. But all the time she was conscious of the fact that all this was a prelude. Her poetry was amorphous and it lacked a theme. It came from the typewriter rather than from the heart.

After three years of kicking around Boston, Martha one day packed all her belongings into two suitcases (one was half empty) and blundered a ride to New York. That was early last year. She found work in the dress industry.

"As soon as I joined the Union, I felt that I had found something that I had been unconsciously seeking all my life," she said. "Of course, I had enough economic training to realize the importance of the Union in maintaining wages and conditions. But to me it was more than that. The Union re-

Zimmerman Addressing Puerto Rico Workers



By Charles S. Zimmerman
Secretary Manager, Local 22

as little as 60 and 70 cents a week. As recently as February 2, Dr. Carlos Manning, verifying some observations I made on my last visit, reported that she was "little school girls" working away at putting in thousands of stitches for a few cents. Of 323 women workers in 212 homes visited, one third earned less than a cent an hour while two-thirds reported hourly earnings of one cent to four cents.

Yet the dress administration even now is trying to further reduce these piece-work rates.

The needle workers of the Island are now organized as a local of the International. Organizers are doing a good job under difficult conditions. They are ready to strike. And I want to say that when the time comes they will have the full support of their sister organizations among the dressmakers of New York.

With the sugar cane workers in land and the longshoremen of San Juan and other harbors of Puerto Rico winning into the fourth week of unadmitted strike, it is clear that the needle industry, the third largest on the Island, will soon be forced to fight for better conditions. There are more than 10,000 home-workers, many of whom are highly skilled in the hand sewing and embroidery field. Yet the code as adopted by the NRA administration provides for a minimum of \$2 a week—a disgraceful scale under the American flag. Yet the workers are being cheated under even this low scale. Many workers earn

those experiences have naturally given a direction to her poetry. Though young, she has traveled a long way. It has enriched her thoughts. Herself a worker, she writes with depth and realism. We are happy to announce that beginning with the next issue of "Justice" her poetry will appear regularly.

An Appeal

The following appeal addressed to all workers in the dress trade is issued by Charles H. Zimmerman, Secretary Manager of Local 22.

"Remember your brother and sister unionists. The season has been slow in getting under way, but there is more work now. As work comes in, I urge you to have the empty machines filled by unionists. Make it a point to seek them out and bring them to the shop. Or write or telephone the Union if you feel that pieces are going to open up in your shop. Let us also act as a job for every member and a member in every job. Spread and share work—let everybody earn."

Local 60, Pressers, Stages Great Installation

lial Jammed As Important Speakers Address Pressers

Avoid bursts of applause and scenes of enthusiasm that demonstrated the solidarity of the members and showed that the Thirtieth annual "Pressers' spirit" was still alive, Local 60, Dress and Waist Pressers' Union, installed their officers for the coming two years at Webster Hall, Wednesday, February 6.

Officers punctuated the address of Max Cohen, Local 60 manager, as he stepped to the edge of the five-backed platform and dedicated the administration to the maintenance of a fighting local to accelerate the march of better conditions.

Among the important speakers were David Dubinsky, President of the I.L.G.W.U.; Julius Hochman, General Manager of the Dress Joint Board; Nathan Maronite, President of the Dress Joint Board; Charles S. Zimmerman, Secretary-Manual of Local 22; Maurine W. Jacobs, Secretary Local 19 Cutters; Philip Kapp, Secretary-Treasurer of the Dress Joint Board; Isidore Nader, Manager of the Cloak Joint Board; Morris Feinstein, Secretary United Hebrew Trades; Isidore Cohen, Manager Joint Council For Workers' Union; Emil Schelsinger, counsel to the Dressmakers; I. Hamlin, Secretary Palestine Workers' Council; Isidore Nader, Secretary of the Dress Joint Board; Joseph H. Redlaw, Manager Local 35 Cloak Pressers; Harry Lang of the "Forward"; Isidore Wasilovsky, Chairman of the local, presided.

The administration installed followed: Manager, Max Cohen; Chairman, I. Wasilovsky; Business Agents, Charles Cherkov, I. Landman, M. Gorman, J. Goldstein, E. Kolinsky; Executive Board, S. Cipek, Ph. Kolinsky, J. Duckoff, R. Herman, T. Rothstein, M. Hochman.



Left: Julius Hochman, General Manager Dress Joint Board, congratulates the local on its accomplishments. Center: Max Cohen, manager of the local, dedicates the administration to "ceaseless effort." Right: David Dubinsky, President of the I.L.G.W.U., makes the first announcement of the historic agreement with the Prints-Bederman shop in Cleveland

M. Loer, V. Dilenko, R. Cohen, M. Gutbeter, Frank Spacior, S. Puan, Sam Landman, J. Flahelien, S. Greenberg, M. Rosenbaum, Frank Kaplan, M. Silverman, Ph. Ehrlich, D. Goldberg, J. Spitalnick, L. Lawler, M. Siegel, N. Donawa; Relief Committee, S. Bakal, I. Meyerowitz, S. Marcus, I. Lipkin, Louis Horst.

One of the surprises of the evening was the first real public appearance of the Local 60 orchestra and vocal ensemble, a pet project of I. Wasilovsky, Chairman of the Educational Committee, and H. Rosenfeld, Director of the committee. The musicians and singers had been trained and rehearsed for the event by F. Kuritsky, leader. All were greeted with the exception of Miss E. Berkovits at the piano and young men who were sons of Pressers. These in the orchestra and vocal ensemble followed: Hugh Waters, Robert Kaufman, Isidore Kohler, Fred Riker, Hyman Powers, Dave Powers, George Smart, Jacob Sirota, Joseph Dufkoff, Sam Dratch, Henry Robbins, Abe Shapiro, Isidore Rasmussen, Sol Isaac, Louis Meier, I. Krinsky, Norman Donaw, Jacob Lipshitz, A. Wisniewsky, A. Madoff, D. Landes, F. Sadowsky, M. Krawitz, Max Shuman, U. Richter, Moe Soderzky, Julius Kaufman, and Jack Steiner.

Jennette Dress Settles; Union Wins \$8,000 and Jobs for Workers

A prolonged and bitterly contested battle with the Jennette Dress Company, 253 West 34th Street, carried through on both the legal and strike fronts by Julius Hochman, general manager of the Dress Joint Board, ended in a significant union victory on February 4, when the manufacturer paid \$8,000 and agreed to restore a forty-machine shop in the midtown area.

Of the money damages, \$5,000 will go proportionately to the workers in the contractor shop involved in the dispute. The other \$2,000 was an additional fine levied

for the Joint Board to pay the expenses of the investigation that revealed Jennette Dress as a violator of the agreement.

Shop Closes

The case began when employees of the "Leo Nausbaum Shop" found themselves without jobs when the shop closed. It was the contention of Brother Hochman that the Nausbaum Shop had originally been opened as an annex of the Jennette Dress and that the latter firm had accepted responsibility for the workers. Nausbaum later opened another shop. But he had been

watched by the Union and his workers were called out.

The issue was joined when the United Association, in behalf of Nausbaum, filed a complaint against the Union with the Imperial Chairman of the Dress Industry. Brother Hochman countered with a complaint against the Jennette, charging a lockout. Apart from the immediate interest in the welfare of the Nausbaum workers, the whole question of jobber responsibility, one of the most important gains from the great strike of 1933, was at trial.

Strike Brings Victory

Several hearings before Imperial Chairman Feldblum failed to shake Brother Hochman's position. A decision was finally handed down upholding the Union's contention.

But that was only the first step in the victory. The manufacturer refused to abide by the decision and sent a strike for several additional weeks. The strike proved successful and Jennette capitulated, asking for a settlement. Alan Cantor, manager of the National Department, conducted the detailed negotiations that led to the settlement.

Right away group hiding their identity as foreign agents under the mantle of labor to interfere with our work by raising an American political question."

Reveals Records

Vice-President Antonini pointed to records of the people in line of the "Institute."

"Three names are constantly cropping up in the publicity of this so-called 'Italian Labor Institute'," he said. "Enrico Garavito, former captain in the Italian army, is an out-and-out Fascist. Ettore Priletti has had, to say the least, a queer history in the labor movement. Until two years ago he was a Red Communist and now he's cropped up as a blackshirt. In between, he became a building contractor and visited Italy. His cousin, Leonard Priletti, was manager of the Italian Chamber of Labor. That organization until two years ago was recognized by the American Federation of Labor, but was officially repudiated when it was discovered that Priletti was in secret communication with Edmund Ross, a high official in the Fascist hierarchy."

Antonini Rips "Institute" As Fascist Screen

Luigi Antonini, Vice-President of the I. L. G. W. U., and General Secretary of Local 59, is branding the Italian Labor Institute, 229 Lafayette Street, as a cover for a group of Fascist agents attempting to disrupt the legitimate Italian labor movement.

After discovering that a stream of statements in the Italian press tended to establish the impression that the so-called "Institute" was recognized by the American Federation of Labor, Brother Antonini obtained the following statement from William Collins, New York representative of the Federation:

"We wish to state the Italian Labor Institute is in no way affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. William Collins, our president, has expressed very clearly the attitude of our organization as against all forms of dictatorship, particularly where legitimate trade unions have been destroyed through Fascism or Nazism."

Campaign On

This statement was broadcast to the daily press and membership as a start in a persistent campaign to reveal the "Institute" as a Fascist propaganda screen that bodes no good for the organized Italian workers.

"There can be no question about the activities of this group which professes to talk for workers," Brother Antonini said. "We will definitely inform them of our will."

ANTONINI CHARGES CRIMINAL LIBEL

Domenico Trombetta and Ettore Priletti, said to be publisher of and writer for "Il Grido della Birlo" must face a hearing on a criminal libel complaint filed by Luigi Antonini, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 59. The complaint is the outgrowth of numerous articles in the Italian press attacking Antonini, personally, and the Union, in general. Trombetta and Priletti were detained February 7 and bond of \$500 each fixed pending the hearing.

Forward to the proper authorities at Washington that the few individuals operating under the name of the Italian Labor Institute and talking glibly of their connection with the American Federation of Labor are Fascist agents attempting to disrupt the legitimate Italian labor movement for foreign political purposes.

"During the past year and a half the needle trades have witnessed the unprecedented success of our Italian speaking local. It has grown to 40,000 members and expanded its cultural and educational facilities to a point where it has obtained world-wide recognition. We have established and enforced the 55-hour week, decent wages and livable standards for the Italian workers. This has been done by American methods, with a democratic union responsive to the wishes of the membership. We will

Joint Board "Ball Tossers" Work-Out



With a heavy schedule all set to shop them down, the Joint Board Asks that the getting into the happy clicks of practice under the drive of Mike Spino, captain and manager. Brother Spino insists that his bench will collect the International championship and if his hat grabbers can't win the opposition on the court as well as he can toss the manufacturer's armor in the accounting department, they should

be way up in the running.

The squad consists of Manny Hochman, Strike Secretary Bob Ladd, Dave Schukin, Harry Evers, Lou Chervin, Larry Ferlazzo, Joe Teal, Lester Spielman and Jack Farovsky. The schedule as it stands at present follows: Feb. 16, Sun. of Local 17; Mar. 2 and 5; Local 12; Mar. 23 and Apr. 20, Local 102. By that time the bright new uniforms of the Joint Board Squad will be plenty rugged.

Enthusiastic "89" Sections Cram Meetings

Scenes of enthusiasm unparalleled in the history of the Union are being recorded in a series of district meetings called to review the executive policies and administration of Local 89. The meetings, which are being held in the large Christ Church Auditorium. Breathing space has been at a premium and the meetings have more than once over-looked the time for adjournment. The meetings thus far have exhibited a striking unanimity in the approval of the policies of the present administration of the local.

The meetings thus far held include those of the Presser Branch, January 17; the workers in "Attila" shop, January 24; "National" workers, January 31; Section "B" of the United, February 7; Section "A" of the United, February 14.

Details of the last two meetings are unavailable since this edition of "Justice" preceded them to press. At all meetings Leland Antonio, Manager and General Secretary of Local 89, explained the aims of the last year and the policies of the future.

Stand in Aides

Several hundred were standing in the aisles at the Presser Branch meeting. Measures to tighten up the control of the shops were discussed and approved. An appropriation of \$10,000 from the sick and benefit fund was made for the relief of needy Union members. Joseph Providenti is special co-ordinator of the Presser Branch. John Trosini, chairman of the branch, presided. John Gelo, assistant manager, spoke.

With the formal business of the meeting of the "Attila" workers at the way, Mr. Antonio thanked the workers for their approval of the policies of the administration and gave a stirring call on how to maintain prices for the new season. He reported that despite the fact that the sick and

Plan Courses In Psychology

A feature of exceptional interest in the program now being launched by the educational department of Dressmakers' Local 22, I.L.G.W.U., is the course of ten lectures on "Psychology and Social Life," scheduled for Wednesday evening at 6:15 at Union headquarters, 212 West 43rd Street.

Dr. Goodwin Watson, professor at Teachers' College, Columbia University, is in charge of the class and will deliver the lectures. The course deals with the problems of modern psychology from the point of view of social reconstruction and the labor movement. Professor Watson has studied these questions thoroughly in his work at Columbia University; at the same time he completely shares the progressive social viewpoint of labor.

On the same evening, immediately following Dr. Watson's class, there are classes in economics, the structure and functioning of the union and the fundamentals of Marxism. A variety of other courses is given at the central school at section schools in various parts of the city. All classes are free to Union members.

Dressmakers are urged to register for Dr. Watson's and other courses immediately, at the education department office, Room 944, 212 West 43rd Street.

benefit fund had started from scratch with an empty treasury, it had distributed tens of thousands of dollars to unfortunate unionists and accumulated a sizable reserve. Tina Catania presided. Carmelo Isidoro, who spoke, and Joseph Costanzo, are the Italian business agents.

Cheer Antonio

Mr. Antonio's meeting has been enthusiastic, the meeting of the National Department workers established a new high for emotional outbursts of cheering. The auditorium, despite the bad weather,

was crisscrossed from wall to wall and hundreds simply could not squeeze their way into the meeting. When Anna Peracchio moved the acceptance of Brother Antonio's report the crowd hardly waited for Anna Mosca's second before jumping to feet in shouts of approval. By actual count, some 1,300 votes were recorded in favor without a single dissenter. Joseph Salzano, Salvatore Noto, Giuseppe Salzano, and Antonio Costanzo are Italian business agents for the section.

District membership meetings of Local 89 scheduled for the future follow:

Tuesday, February 18, Harlem Terrace, 210 E. 104th Street—HARLEM DISTRICT; Manager, Joseph Piscitello; Business Agent, Vincent D'Arosio.

Wednesday, February 20, 218 Sackman Street, Brownsville—EAST NEW YORK DISTRICT; Manager, Joseph Miranda; Business Agent, Anthony Barone.

Thursday, February 21, Christ Church—SECTION "C" OF THE UNITED; Manager, Shapiro; Italian Business Agents, John Cabini, Grace De Laize and Sisto Avram.

Tuesday, February 26, Amalgamated Temple, Arden Place, Brooklyn—WILLIAMSBURG DISTRICT; Manager, Giacomo Di Nole; Italian Business Agents, Peter Bonanno and Domenico Tagliarini.

Wednesday, February 27, 400, Avenue M, Brooklyn—BROOKLYN DISTRICT; Manager, Peter L. Cuzzi; Business Agent, Anthony Asil.

Thursday, February 28, Menorah Masonic Temple, 5000 14th Ave., Brooklyn—BORO PARK DISTRICT; Manager, John Kettio; Italian Business Agents, Salvatore Milazzo, Anthony Garofalo.

Helps You Get Citizen Papers



Henry Fruchter

Here's a new Dress Joint Board service that makes it so easy for you to get your citizenship papers that delay is inexcusable.

You don't have to go downtown or wander around looking for help. The Naturalization Aid League of New York has established a branch for citizenship at the Dress Joint Board office, 216 West 40th Street, Room 412. The office is open until 6 P. M.

All shop chairmen are requested to improve the workers with the importance of naturalization and to urge them to come directly to the office of the Joint Board for assistance.

Establishment of this special office is the direct result of the extraordinary response to a circulation campaign among the dressmakers. So pronounced was the response that Henry Fruchter, executive director of the Naturalization Aid League, has assumed personal charge of the office at the Joint Board.

"I consider this work of prime

WORKERS THANK UNION OFFICERS

GIUNA DRESS WORKERS

THANK J. J. FOR BACK PAY
We, the workers of the Giuna Dress Shop, wish to take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to the I.L.G.W.U. for the help it has been in aiding us in the fight for the betterment of our conditions in our shop.

We also wish to express our appreciation and thanks to the Joint Board and its officers for collecting \$11,022.88 from Jobber P. J. Barash, in back pay, and to thank Mr. Settel for his persistent efforts in our behalf.

We shall cooperate with you and shall do all in our power to live up to the standards of the Union.

Sincerely yours,
Dolores Alvarez, Rosa Lucas, Lucy Garment, Rosa Jacques, Frank Pontano.

importance." Brother Fruchter said. "We can analyze the political, social and economic aspects of the question from a hundred different angles. It is not a matter of argument so much as a matter of argument—putting off the necessary step. There isn't a dressmaker who doesn't know that if he fails to get naturalized he is committing a wrong against himself, his children and his union. American citizenship is more than the privilege of voting; it is a vital social and economic instrument which aids the worker at every turn in his desire to improve his conditions. The internationalism of nationalism throughout the world is making citizenship ever more important. Non-citizens should take immediate advantage of this office at the Joint Board."

We, the workers of the Kay Dress Co. and Follins Dress Co., working for Jobber BARNETT DRESS CO., 462 Seventh Avenue, New York City, hereby express our appreciation and thanks to the Joint Board in of the Dress and Waistmakers' Union, and particularly to Sasha Zimmerman, Manager of Local 22, and Alice Cantor and J. Ushelsky, Business Agents, for their efforts in our behalf and for collecting for us Eleven Hundred Dollars in back pay, all of us receiving from ten dollars to twenty-two dollars each, which we can use very well. We pledge our loyalty to the Union and will cooperate with the Dressmakers' Joint Board in all our future struggles. Chairladies Rose Katschinsky and Millie Allen, Alice Madden, Kate Fischer, Laura Silverman, Dora Ernst.

We, the workers of Sol Goldstein dress shop, 1175 Broadway, express our sincere appreciation to our shop chairman, Irving Tetoff. During the time that he was chairman, he worked incessantly for the welfare of the workers. The shop is now a 100 per cent union shop in every respect. Brother Irving, continue your work; the shop is with you 100 per cent! Committee: Jacob Bresman, Local 42; Dave Brockman, Local 27; Nathan Goldstein, Local 22.

We, the workers of the Cherry Dress Company, of 246 West 25th Street, assembled at a special shop meeting, in the office of the Union, on Thursday, November 1, 1934, express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the officers of our Union, particularly to Brothers Chas. Silverman, our General Manager, Alice Cantor, the manager of the National Department, and Business Agent Meyer Temp, for the efficient and thorough manner in which they handled the investigation of our firm's books, as a result of which the sum of \$20,000 in back pay has been collected and paid by the Union to the workers of the outfit shop and the contracting shops.

The prompt administration of our Union has by this and similar actions demonstrated its energy and militancy in defending the interests of the workers in every opportunity. We hope they will continue to serve and defend our interests in the shop to the end that we may jointly succeed in maintaining the conditions for which we fought in the last general strike.

It is further decided that we publish notice of this resolution in the press.

(Signed) THE COMMITTEE
AS Goldstein, Mildred Dole, Sam Senginsky, Jenny Miller, Gloria Garcia, Israel Atlas.

Expert To Talk



David J. Sapos

A comprehensive analysis of "Dual Unionism in the United States," including the history of that much discussed subject and its present implications, will be made by David J. Sapos before the Dress Joint Board Staff on March 1.

The program of Friday afternoon lectures in Room 408, 218 West 43rd Street, is proving very popular and is attracting a wide audience.

Sapos is a nationally known authority on his subject. Author of numerous standard works, he is at present engaged in a study of the role of government in labor relations as a research associate with the 40th Century Fund. For many years he taught the labor movement subjects at Brookwood College. His talks will divide itself, roughly, into three parts: a brief sketch of the situation between the War and NRA; and the dual union movement since that time. The lecture will emphasize current history.

Will Herbert, Educational Director of Local 22, who took on the duties of preparing this program and arranging for the nationally known speakers, in addition to his regular duties, is to be congratulated on his excellent choice of speakers and the interest they have aroused. Bertram D. Wolf, Director of the New Workers' School, delivered the "Group-Frontary Front on 'What Is Happening in Russia.'" Ellen Wilkinson, Labor Party member of Parliament, followed on February 8. "The Labor Movement and the Russian Revolution" was the day of J. B. S. Harrison, editor of the Advance, Amalgamated Clothing Workers' paper.

Brother Herbert urges the staff and others who are in the interest to be in their seats promptly at 2 P. M. so that Brother Murray Gross, permanent chairman, may introduce the speakers on time. Two hundred citizens for members of the staff follow the lecture.

Our "Pen-Pushers" Make Merry



Some 125 typewriter pounders, ink slingers and "stamp" jugglers from the Dress Joint Board and the locals joined a thousand other members of the B. S. & A. U. in the First Annual Dance and Entertainment of the organization at the Hotel Delano, Saturday, January 26. Brother Murray Nathan, Organization Department of the Dress Joint Board, was chairman of the Committee on Arrangements. Ebbe Breathnach, pianist, and Victor Dominick, dancer, were features of the program.

.. Baltimore Union Topics ..

By Charles Kreindler, V.P.,
Manager Baltimore Joint Board

The cloak Spring season has already started in Baltimore and, naturally, it keeps the Union very much on the alert. First, are we busy with the settlement of prices in the union shops, which, as usual, is not an easy matter. The employers would like to have their garments made up as cheaply as possible, and this is the Union's business to see to it that prices are settled in a way that will not hurt the workers to make a fair living. If we are in a position to announce that piece rates for garments in the union shops have been set, it will be enough work, we have good reason to believe that the workers will have a satisfactory season.

Such is the situation in the union shops, but, as you know, we have always been busy in Baltimore with non-union employers, and, naturally, there are some chieftains among them. The piece rates that these employers have fixed for their garments are low, and we, in such cases, the thing for us to do is to invoke the code and its enforcement machinery. In each case, complaints are filed with the office of the Code Authority in Baltimore. If we are forcing the employers to set such rates that would insure even the non-union workers the earnings provided for in the code, this is a very hard task and requires a lot of persistence. Let me cite an example:

Union Forces Higher Rates

As "Justice" readers know, Baltimore was placed in the Western Area of the Coat and Best Industry until December sixteenth, 1934. Thanks to the efforts of the International Union, Baltimore was transferred after that date to the Eastern Area, which provides higher rates than does the Western. Some of the non-union employers, especially the chieftains, nevertheless, try to forget about this change and not only do they not set the rates higher, but, in some cases, they have fixed them even lower making it impossible for their workers to earn even the minimum. But the Union has gradually been forcing these employers to change their rates substantially. As a result, the non-union workers are beginning to realize that their only protection lies within the Union, and thus the presence of R. Cohen & Sons Company, Baltimore, the city's hard-bottled non-union firm, have joined the Union. Naturally,

in this case, the prices will be now set collectively between the union workers and the firm. Baltimore has started to move in the right direction and the prospects for the near future are quite bright.

In the Cotton Garment Shops

There is an energetic drive being carried on right now in this field in Baltimore. President Dubinsky has transferred the entire Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware, and the work is progressing very favorably.

We have already succeeded in signing the first agreement in the local cotton garment industry with a prominent firm, the Straus, Rorer & Strauss Company. Prior to the signing of the agreement, all the workers in the factory, with but a few dissenting votes, had cast their vote in favor of the I. L. C. W. U. as their representative. All indications point in the direction of other shops following soon the Straus, Rorer & Strauss example.

Election and Installations

In accordance with the decision of the C. E. B., the three Baltimore locals held elections and have elected their officers for two years. Brother Samuel Kaplan was re-elected as the business agent of the Joint Board. Installations of local officers were held recently

and the Joint Board officers were inducted on January 31.

Having learned that President Dubinsky would be in Washington on that day, at the meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, we invited him to come to Baltimore and to address our workers on that evening. The meeting, which consisted of cloakmakers, dressmakers, and cotton garment workers, took place at the Cedar Wall. Brother Dubinsky's address was enthusiastically received by the workers, and after the meeting he conferred with several employers and later attended a dinner given in honor of the outgoing and incoming Executive Board members and of the Joint Board delegates.

At the dinner, President Dubinsky spoke again on trade union policy, and was warmly applauded. Others who spoke at the dinner were J. Edelman, lawyer for the Baltimore Joint Board, and M. L. Polin, manager of the Baltimore office of the Jewish Daily Forward, who is also a member of our Union. The mass meeting earlier in the day was addressed also by Anton Rambar, Florence Lantier, John Martin, Samuel Kaplan, and the writer. The Baltimore workers are very thankful to President Dubinsky for the visit and for the very constructive addresses delivered by him.

Dallas Dress Firms Asked to Grant Union Work Terms

Higher Wages, Collective Bargaining Machinery, Equal Worker Distribution, I.L.G.W.U. Representative

Myer Perlsman, general organizer of the I.L.G.W.U., early this month served notice upon fifteen Dallas, Tex., dress manufacturing firms that "the time has come when increases of wages must be made and working conditions improved." The letter was addressed to the dress employers in the name of the two Dallas I.L.G.W.U. locals, Nos. 121 and 204, and spoke on behalf of the 1,500 to 2,000 workers employed in the Dallas dress factories.

Demands Considered Vital

After settling out the demands, Bro. Perlsman states that he be-

lieves them "essential to the life and well-being of the workers."

"We have at the same time taken into consideration the propriety and further development of the industry in Dallas."

"We feel that these requests are very reasonable and can be easily granted by the employers. We know that the product the manufacturers here are producing is sold on the markets in this country for the same price that the same product is sold by other manufacturers where the wages are much higher."

"The workers have waited patiently for improvements in wages and after a year and a half, they have reached the point where they feel that the time has come when those improvements should be brought about immediately. The union stands ready to join in any conference that you may wish to arrange, and the union also stands ready to submit all those proposals to any unbiased group or individual that may be selected jointly by the union and the employers to adjust, or arbitrate any or all of these proposals."

J. B. Priestley OR IBSSEN REVERSED

"Laborum Grov"
By J. B. Priestley
Booth Theatre

Two years ago New York saw a production of "Dangerous Corner" by J.B. Priestley. It was a mystery play with an Ibsen twist, and it was a splendid success. It was a play about a murder mystery, and it was a play about a murder mystery.

The fact is Mr. Priestley is a professional playwright. He knows what a play is, and delivers the goods. He has discovered the formula. This is to say, Mr. Priestley can be reasonably depended upon to produce a pretty good imitation of a play.

But why rake up the bones of poor Thomas? The latter loved to open his plays with a scene in which everything was hunky-dory, then send his hero or heroine off on a wild duck chase after the truth, until the doll's house came crashing down round his or her ears. In "Dangerous Corner," what starts out as an innocent cocktail party turns into a murder mystery with a twist for the truth detective. Arnie delectable. But then represented an affirmation of life. I can't tell what a murder mystery is intended to represent.

In the same way, George Radford of Lahanboro Grove, a suburb of London, is a good father and a good husband. Indeed, his more impetuous daughter is inclined to think him dull and stupid. But the wrong way once too often, George reveals the astounding information that he is head of an international ring of counterfeiters. He is surrounded by innumerable dangers every minute of the day. George Radford is a master mind in a middle class body. With undiminished humor he has consented to lead a life of crime for the sake of his wife and child. Middle class integrity must be upheld at all costs.

The inevitable gaucho inspector from Scotland Yard steps in and makes George Radford's vociferous implacable. We are grateful to the Inspector for forcing Mr. Radford back on the straight and honest path. All ends happily.

This, then, is the hook from England. The play, as such, is entirely lacking in values. The social scene is completely alien. The family man is what counts, and that justifies the means. "Laborum Grov" never rises above the intellectual level of a high school course. It is completely alien. The play is not to be taken seriously.

The acting is vaudeville standard.

Labor at the Play

By Irwin Seward

obligingly laid on by an English company, which was specially imported for the occasion.

"Waiting for Lefty"
By Clifford Odets

This season has already witnessed six performances of "Waiting for Lefty" in New York. The Group Theatre is responsible for its production. Specifically, this one-act play in six short scenes is based on the New York City Taxi Strike of February, 1934. It has, however, universal social implications. The first scene is, of course, the union meeting of the taxi-drivers. The burning question of the strike holds the huge audience tense. They are impatiently waiting for Lefty, their leader.

The scene shifts and we are presented a view of the distant "side" in the life of the harassed cab driver. This and the scene that follows, the young back and his girl, are unfortunately weakest in an otherwise theatrically admirable play. The fault there these two scenes is that they are not created enough. Clifford Odets has a tendency to fall short on the human side, and a drama is after all a record of human conduct and values.

The labor play episode is handled with mordant humor. Odets must broaden his canvas to include the starving young actor and the struggling Jewish intern who is discriminated against. Worker and intern are in the same boat. The only possible answer to a form of society that is a menace to human life and progress is revolt.

Lefty, the people's leader, is dispatched by gunmen and a bullet finds the carter with a bullet in his head. The workers rise to a man.

"Waiting for Lefty" is a powerful play. It is one of the stormiest of the new working-class drama. By all means get to see it or read it in the February issue of the "New Theatre" magazine.

"Awake and Sing"

The new Group Theatre production, "Awake and Sing!" by Clifford Odets, is scheduled to open on February 15 at the Belasco Theatre. It is a play about a Jewish family in the Bronx, and Uncle Morty, we are informed, is a dress manufacturer, which should make the play right up our alley.

"The Pit"

The Theatre Union will present "The Pit" by Albert Maltz, at the Clyde Repertory Theatre about the middle of March. It deals with coal miners in West Virginia.

Dress Joint Board Issues "Nine-To-Five" Ruling

The following notice announcing the abolition of the irregular hour system under which some shops began at 8:30 A.M. and others at 9 A.M. has been issued by the Joint Board of the Dress and Waistmakers' Union.

NOTICE AND WARNING

The working day of all dressmakers shall begin at 9 A.M. and end promptly at 5 P.M.

The former practice of the irregular hour system under which some shops started at 8:30 A.M. and others at 9 A.M. will no longer be tolerated. The practice caused confusion and unnecessary complications.

The 35-hour week shall be observed in the following manner: (1) The working week starts on Monday at 9 A.M. and ends on Friday at 5 P.M., thus including five days and no Saturdays. (2) The working day starts at 9 A.M. and ends promptly at 5 P.M. Lunch hour is one hour from noon to 1 P.M.

Failure to observe any part of the prescribed 35-hour working rule and the new "Uniform Working Week" ruling will be regarded as a very serious violation, and workers doing so will be brought before the Joint Board Grievance Committee.



Speakers and Chairmen at Forest City Pre-Strike Mass Meeting. The Meeting Was Held at the Municipal Auditorium in St. Louis on January 28. On January 28, 1935, a group of speakers and chairmen at the Forest City Pre-Strike Mass Meeting. The group is standing in two rows. The front row includes Morris Weiss, Business Agent, and Wesley Sanderson, President of the Cotton Cutters Local 181. The back row includes Sam Goldberg, President of the Joint Board, and John Shover, President of Local 16. Other individuals in the group include Wm. Rand, Secretary of St. Louis Central Labor Union, Percival Chubb of the St. Louis Ethical Society, Fr. P. S. Skane of St. Gabriel Church, Ben Gilbert, Manager of St. Louis Central Labor Union, Edith Phillips, St. Louis Organizer, I. L. G. U., Meyer Perlsman, General Organizer, I. L. G. U., and R. M. Miller, President of the Dress Makers' Local 104. Charles Londa, Secretary, of the Dress Makers' Local 78, and Artie Wilson, President, of the Cotton Dress Makers' Local 182, are also present.

Live Lines from Garment Sidelines

By Frances Keane

A Washington dispatch last week announced that a congressional investigation of all NRA code authorities for evidence of monopolistic practices and illegal acts will shortly be asked in the U. S. Senate.

Such a move, however, was received by a group of Senators, who may code authorities, have been investigated. Prior to the introduction of a resolution to that effect, it is anticipated that several congressmen will direct action upon increasing costs to the consumer under NRA codes by way of a prelude.

NRA officials have denied the rumor that they are planning to remove some code authorities for alleged monopolistic practices. The NIRD is constantly investigating complaints of alleged illegal acts by code authorities, and tracing them to their source, according to Mrs. Administrative Officer Harman, but since the cotton garment case, where a code authority was thrown out, no other case has developed.

An NRA investigation of code authority operations in the needle trades would be welcomed, several code officials announced. Code directors in the coat and suit, military and infant and children's wear fields, in discussing any possible Administrative action, mentioned previous investigations and studies made by Government officials in recent months, and stated that in all cases a clean bill of health was rendered. They took the attitude that they have nothing to hide from the Government officials or members of the industry.

The Apparel Codes Label Council has requested official sanction from the NRA on a set

of by-laws that would enable the group to police retail stores for evidence of Blue Eagle infractions by apparel manufacturers.

The council, which consists of representatives of the various apparel codes, is understood to be seeking a per cent of label money for the purpose of checking up on label use in the interests of all the apparel code authorities. It is believed that the work of such a group would be far more effective and economical than if the same work is done by individual agents from the various code authorities practically duplicating each other's work.

Another function of this group would be to make the consumer label-conscious — to advertise and promote the use and recognition of the Blue Eagle labels. Under the council plan, the two per cent levy would cover all activities of the group, including both policing and advertising.

The question now being debated by NRA officials is to determine the legality of this plan under the terms of the administrative order which sets forth use of label money.

It has been stated by well-informed sources that industries having collective agreements with unions may recommend that the trade agreements become a fixed part of the recovery code for the industry subject to enforcement by the Code Authority. The collective agreements now covering the NRA code label expires on June 1, and it is understood that a number of

the Code Authority may leave for Washington shortly to file a copy of the agreements with the Administration.

The move would be directed primarily against the NRA shops which abide by the existing code of the agreements and would arouse a storm of opposition from the unorganized forces of the industry. The minimum scales have tended to undermine the standards for agreement. Since the Recovery Act, the shops, not covered by the collective agreements have increased in number from 25 to 350.

A thorough investigation of the cost of production of underwear in Puerto Rico is planned by the Undergarment and Negligee Code Authority. Jonas Reiner, chairman of the Puerto Rican Committee of the Authority, has applied for permission in Washington for the Code Authority to expend the amount of money this investigation would

The necessity for this investigation has arisen because of the trend during the past few months toward machine labor rather than hand labor in Puerto Rico. Hand labor was considered non-competitive, but since the Government established a minimum of \$2 for some workers or hand embroidery in factories, the recent trend has been toward machine labor. This trend, coupled with the low minimum, has developed a level of competition impossible for American labor to meet. Mr. Reiner has stated that machine-made garments produced on the island can be turned out at from 67 to 85 per cent less than domestic made garments.

Mr. Reiner, made by Dr. Caroline Manning, who investigated Puerto Rican conditions, shows that of 321 women workers in 252 homes,

31 per cent earned less than one cent an hour, and 63 per cent of other cases earned from one to four cents an hour.

An NRA order banning work shops in private apartments or living quarters was issued recently to apply to all industry codes having provisions for the abolition of home-work. It is estimated that several hundred thousand workers are affected by the code provisions against home-work.

In this order, the NIRD has defined the phrase "home or living quarters" as it appears in the codes prohibiting home-work as "the private house, private apartment, or private room, whichever is the most extensive, occupied as a home by the employer and his family." The order states that the practice of processing articles, the material for which has been furnished by the employer, in the home constitutes a violation of the codes which provide for the abolition of home-work, except as provided in the executive order 6711-A of May 15, 1934.

This order permits persons to engage in home-work at the same rate of wage as is paid for

the same type of work performed in the factory, if an employment certificate is obtained from the U. S. Department of Labor, and provided the person is physically incapacitated or is needed at home for attendance upon an invalid.

The Dress Code Authority has passed a new regulation concerning the distribution of labels, but they haven't sufficient funds to enforce it. Until now the manufacturers and wholesalers approached the Code Authority, gave an estimate of the labels needed for a two- or three-week period, received them and paid for them.

Now the Code Authority has decided that the labels shall go to the contractors working for the manufacturers, although the latter shall continue paying for them. This procedure would entail more work, a larger clerical staff, and increased office space. The wholesalers suggest that as the contractors want labels as distributed they should be willing to pay the additional cost of distribution—but the contractors have ignored that suggestion.

As the budget of the Code Authority is made out for the current six months, and the Code Authority uses all its funds to maintain its present efficiency, another means has to be found to get out of this dilemma. Speeding up of the workers has been one method suggested.

The contractors believe that they will have more control over the jobbers if they are in possession of the labels, and that they will be able to avoid many disputes.

Among the Underwear Workers, Local 62

By Samuel Shoss
Manager Local 62

Usually, the months of January and February belong to the slack periods of the year in our industry. Particularly in recent years, Christmas shipping season did not absorb all the merchandise. Stores found themselves with leftovers on their shelves. Therefore, orders were placed very sparingly. This year is the surprising exception. Because of the shorter work-week, the industry did not suffer from over-production. The supply did not exceed the demand.

A great number of our firms resumed operations immediately following New Year's and thousands of workers were called in. However, a substantial number of workers are still out and the problem confronting the Union at present is the enforcement of work. We are in a quandary of work. We are in a quandary that work shall, as far as

practicable, be evenly divided to assure part-time employment to all our members.

We also have to contend with the customary after-season discharges. Sixty-six workers were discharged in various shops. Of them, forty-four were reinstated. Two cases were dropped because the complaints were without ground.

Several manufacturers had attempted to reduce prices. It soon became evident that it was a concerted effort on the part of the employers to deprive wage standards. In the course of the month of January, fifty-one cases of serious price disputes were satisfactorily adjusted. In one instance, we found ourselves compelled to resort to a stoppage. The fact that the Union took a firm and uncompromising position convinced the employers that tampering with prices would not be tolerated.

Judging by the promising start of 1935, we were hopeful that our

CLASS AND GROUP SCHEDULE — SPRING SESSION — 1935

(Continued from Page 9)

Subject	Teacher	Time	Place	Local
Marxism Fundamentals	...	7:15-232 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.		22
History Jewish Labor Movement	...	6:15-232 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.		22
THURSDAYS				
Choral	J. Furgile	9:11-600 Main Ave., Passaic, N.J.		185
Choral	Ben Berkowitz	7:30-8:30 1 Maple St., So. River, N.J.		150
Current Events	Joe Schwartz	5:30-8:00 Km. 991, 1000 Cherry St., Phila.		22
Dramatics	M. Badolati	7:30-8:30 608 Main Ave., Passaic, N.J.		185
Current Events (twice monthly)	I. Atkins	5:30-7:00 1200 14th St., N.Y.C.		22
Current Events (twice monthly)	L. Paparella	6:30-8:30 140 Second St., N.Y.C.		22
Mandolin (1)	D. Adams	5:30-7:00 218 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.		22
Mandolin (2)	Bill Beattie	7:30-10:00 Textile Bldg., 330 W. 14th St.		10
Gym (men)	Les Cohen	7:45-8:45 Church of All Nations, 924 Ave. N.Y.C.		22
Swimming (men)	Les Cohen	6:30-7:30 P.S. No. 17		22
Gym (women)	Madie Herman	6:30-7:30 23 W. 24th St., N.Y.C.		22
Swimming (women)	E. Silber	6:30-7:30 P.S. 11, 320 W. 21st St., N.Y.C.		22
Swimming (women)	Maxie Huber	7:30-9:30 P.S. 11, 320 W. 21st St., N.Y.C.		22
Trade Unionism	I. Barsh	7:30-9:30 73 W. 24th St., Bayonne, N.J.		160
Social Literature	Miss A. Martucci	6:30-7:30 873 Bay, N.Y.C.		62
English (advanced)	Miss F. Katz	5:30-6:30 873 Bay, N.Y.C.		62
Trade Unionism	Wm. Gornberg	7:30-9:30 22 Patterson St., Paterson, N.J.		161
FRIDAYS				
Choral (Harlem)	Miss E. Patterson	8:30-9:30 P.S. 136, 126th St., Edgecombe Ave.		22
Dramatics	Miss E. Patterson	8:30-9:30 28 Graham Ave., Bklyn.		22
Mandolin (Spanish)	L. Paparella	8:30-9:30 195 E. 109th St., N.Y.C.		22
Swimming (women)	L. Weissman	6:30-7:30 515 Orange St., New Haven, Conn.		151
Swimming (women)	L. Weissman	5:45-6:45 Church of All Nations, 924 Ave. N.Y.C.		22
Swimming (women)	Varied Lecturers	8:30-9:30 W.C. Hall, 630 W. 7th, Haledale, Ill.		22
Swimming (women)	...	6 P.S. 161, Leonard & McKibbin, Bklyn.		22
Swimming (women)	...	7 P.S. 161, Leonard & McKibbin, Bklyn.		22
SATURDAYS				
Swimming	...	11 a.m.-1 p.m. Washington Frisco H. S.		91
Swimming	...	1:30-3:30 Km. 554, 1008 Cherry St., Phila.		22
Choral	E. Weiner	2:30-4:30 3 W. 160 St., N.Y.C.		22
Choral (men)	E. Kurtzberg	11:30-1:30 1369 Bay, N.Y.C.		60
Orchestra	E. Kurtzberg	11:30-1:30 1369 Bay, N.Y.C.		60
Mandolin	C. De Filippo	10:30 a.m. 808 Main Ave., Passaic, N.J.		185
Gym (men)	Bill Beattie	9:30 a.m. 12:30 1000 Main Ave., Passaic, N.J.		185
Swimming (men)	Bill Beattie	12:30-2:30 1000 Main Ave., Passaic, N.J.		185
Swimming (women)	L. Weissman	10:30-11:30 a.m. Church of All Nations		22
Swimming (women)	E. Schwartz	1:30-2:30 1369 Bay, N.Y.C.		22
Swimming (women)	Les Cohen	2:30-4:30 Church of All Nations		60
Swimming (women)	I. Seinfeld	1-2 Church of All Nations		60
Swimming (women)	J. Barsh	11 a.m. 3 West 10th St., N.Y.C.		22
Swimming (women)	J. Furgile	12 m. 218 W. 10th St., N.Y.C.		22



PIONEERS OF UNDERWEAR GENERAL STRIKE OF 1934
Left to right: Upper row—Samuel Gross, Morris Zietz
Seated—Mary Goff, Samuel Shoss, Frank Branner.

Unfolding the Chicago Scene

By Morris Bialis, V.P.
Manager, Chicago Joint Board

I am writing this from Ft. Wayne, Ind., where I have been staying several days in connection with the dispute in the Pollak Brothers factory.

Misfit Not Yet Reached
The Chicago clock situation, I need not tell you we have not reached the million yet in the clock shops as far as "misfits" are concerned. There is, as usual, a bit more work in one shop and less in the other, and it goes without saying that each clockmaker strives to find room for himself in a shop where he might earn a few more dollars, which is natural and human enough.

However, we have in our city a solid clock organization, with enough politics to keep every active soul; with a couple of "clubs" that have each a normal quota of very adherents, and all the other familiar paraphernalia of "group" business. Except that I observe that the former animosity between these two clubs has materially subsided lately, and there is hope that they may soon unite, and the one club might then disappear for lack of competition.

Need More Cloaks

What we do, nevertheless, miss here in Chicago is a more active cloak market. Geographically, Chicago would seem to be an ideal place for extensive coat and suit production. It is a great railway center of the country, through which all buyers from all parts of the land must pass. When you

ask the employers about it, their answer is: "The East sells garments cheaper." They will attempt to prove to you by bills that they can buy in New York costs for \$10 and even \$14 a piece and resell them at a profit. Of course, we counter-bill them that New York clockmakers seem to be earning a nice living; that they have a union, and are subject to the same laws and regulations. After an exchange of arguments, the situation remains unchanged. We, in Chicago, still have a little work and our New York brethren don't seem to be much happier either. Nevertheless, we are somewhat curious about these \$4 garments which our Chicago "mump" factories seem to be able to buy in the New York market.

New York Cooperates

Early this season, we had quite a bit of trouble with a local firm, Kirchbaum & Heilbrunn, after we discovered that this firm had developed an undue appetite for the above-referred to \$4 and \$10 coats. We learned, for instance, that they even made an attempt to slip out from Chicago and get a taste of manufacturing in the East. We at once got in touch with the New York Joint Board, and, thanks to the excellent cooperation of my colleagues, Vice-President Isidore Nagler, we succeeded in adjusting our dispute with this firm. We are, indeed, I wish to say again, grateful to him.

We had a better-than-average season in the dress trade last Fall, but current Spring work appears to be lacking vigor. While there is work in the shops, still we find that the demand for labor is

not as urgent as it should be. We even have a good number of unemployed all crafts in the trade which is rather disconcerting.

"Reorganization" Comes to a Head

In August, 1932, as you may recall, prior to the signing of an agreement, Mr. Max Meyer, acting as arbitrator, completed the work of the Joint in reorganizing their shops to the amount of ten per cent each year. It was then decided that this reorganization may be made during the next work in January, 1934 and 1935, with the proviso that each disemployed worker would get a full week's wages. It was also stipulated that in case the Union could prove that a worker was being discriminated for union activity, such a discharge was subject to review and arbitration. In January, 1934, we succeeded, nevertheless, in postponing reorganization for six months and later, in June, delayed it again until January, 1935.

We made another effort, lately, to leave in effect the capitulation of the agreement, in September, but the employers insist on going through with their "right." The result was that some employers took advantage of their privileges and dismissed part of the quota to which they were entitled. All told, about 75 persons were discharged, 22 of whom have already been put back to work through our office. Quite a number of the others obtained jobs without any special effort on the part of the Joint Board.

Cotton Garment Scene Darkens

There is a pre-strike atmosphere in the cotton garment industry. Union headquarters are alive with

committees, groups, distributors of literature, shop meetings, etc.—a general strike is in the air.

Attempts to confer with some employers have, so far, brought little result. The cotton dress manufacturers seem to be getting ready for a fight and, judging from personal observation, the dressmakers in the cotton garment shops are ready for the big scrap.

On February 1, Local 75, the cotton garment local, installed its officers. Brothers Arthur Plotkin and Samuel Glasman and myself spoke, and the meeting was followed by a dance. It was, indeed, one of the finest meetings I have attended in a long time.

About Ft. Wayne, Ind., and Decatur, Ill., in my next correspondence.

Among the Cutters of New York

(Owing to the illness of Vice-President Forstmatter, regular news matter appearing in these columns is omitted from this issue.)

ATHLETIC NEWS Local Ten Beats

Pascale Team
A small group of local rooters accompanied our Local 10 team to Pascale for its first official basketball league game.

The contest was played on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Knights of Columbus Auditorium in Pascale and was witnessed by a crowd of 700 people. The same group that never has failed to support the team in all its games so far, was there, and as usual Max Chanaky, Eddie Berkowitz, Bob Moss and Irving Kaplan led the cheering section. They managed to produce nearly as large a volume of cheering as did the six hundred rooters from Pascale.

The trip was not in vain, as our team succeeded in "taking over" Pascale by a 25-14 score. Frank Libert, manager of Local No. 145, threw up the first ball. The game started off with both teams playing a cautious but aggressive ball. Local 10 lost many chances to score up a big lead by missing many difficult shots. During the first period scoring was low because both teams were tossing with inaccurate shots, coupled with frequent personal fouls handed out by the referee. With Pascale leading by 5 to 4, Local 10 broke through their opponents' defense from behind to take the lead by 13 to 7 at the end of the first half.

Pascale Puts Up Gallant Fight

At the start of the third quarter, Coach Pasnack withdrew his opponents' defense from behind to Pascale put up a gallant and hard uphill fight and wrested the lead away from Local 10, to lead at the end of the third quarter by 14-12. In the fourth and last quarter Local 10 rose to its greatest height. It was an astonishing comeback. The team has never displayed before an audience. They swept Pascale, completely off their feet so that they were unable to regain

RENEW YOUR WORKING CARDS

All cutters, who have failed to renew their working cards upon returning to work or secure a working card when obtaining a new job, are instructed to appear at the office of Local 10 to do so.

Failure to change your working card for the year 1935 will be considered a violation and you will be subject to heavy punishment.

their strike. The first team was sent back for the year 1935 by Coach Pasnack with added advice and careful instructions in carrying out their assignments. Their shots went jumping through the basket—the passing of the ball and the floor work was a treat to the eyes—and the defense was so perfect that Pascale did not score for the entire fourth quarter, while we scored fifteen points running the final score to 25-14.

Much credit should be given to Coach Max Pasnack for his handling of the team, and the improvement they have shown since they started boxing three weeks ago.

BOX SCORE

Local 10	G.	P.
Final, E.P.	2	0
Berkowitz	0	0
Berkowitz, E.P.	2	1
Libert	0	1
Schmidt	0	0
Berg, V.	0	0
Shaner, J.G.	1	5
Alkins	4	0
Phillips	1	0
Sutcliffe	1	0
	12	4

Pascale	G.	P.
Almonds, E.P.	2	2
Eastley	0	0
Harvey	0	0
Cutler, C.	1	0
Trigiani, R.O.	0	0
Temple, L.R.	0	0
Stanley	0	0
	6	2



Underwear Workers, Local 62

(Continued from Page 10)

workers will be provided with out-of-pocket expenses this year. However, the uncertainty and nervousness created by the awaited Code Commission decision of the Supreme Court have caused a sudden setback in our industry, as it apparently has done in all other industries and commerce throughout the country.

Union Has No Power to Designate Sub-Standard Workers

The Undergarment and Negligee Code, like all other codes, contains a provision for the exemption of sub-standard workers, that is, workmen who are either physically or mentally deficient. The power to grant such exemption is vested in the United States Department of Labor. Neither the Union nor even the Code Authority has any such power. An application for exemption must be filed with the United States Department of Labor. After careful investigation such application is either granted or denied by the department. An irresponsible misuse of so-called "rank-and-file" of our Union, inspired by

outside influences, are seeking to convey the impression that the Union is vested with the right to grant such exemption. This is a serious violation of the law. In helping to reduce the code minimum by granting such exemptions to employers for the mere asking. Of course, this is a deliberate attempt to do what forbidden these elements can stop in their attempts to besmirch the Union upon which they depend for their very livelihood.

Report All Violations to Union

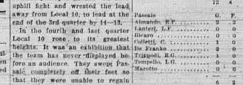
Presently, workers have a right to complain to the Union because of a complaint they have against their employer. In many cases, the al-

leged complaint is never communicated to the Union. Often, the shop chair-lady is not informed about it.

How can it reasonably be expected that the Union would set on a matter of which it is not advised?

An interesting case, characteristic of what we mentioned above, occurred in the Friedman Negligee Company. Only a week ago we learned, quite by chance, that a few of the workmen in that shop had not been paid for New Year's Day of 1935. New Year's Day is a legal holiday for which workmen are to be paid under the terms of our agreement. More than a year had elapsed and no action was made of that fact by the workers. A check of \$24.37 for back pay was collected from the firm and paid out by the Union to the workers involved.

Let this serve as an incentive to our members to report all violations to the Union without delay in order that the Union may promptly act in their behalf.



ATTENTION
MEMBERS OF LOCAL 10
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
will be held on
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1935,
at
ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARK'S PLACE,
at 7:30 P. M.
SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS—
Nomination of Officers for the 1935 Term.
Cutters are urged to attend without fail.

ATTENTION
CUTTERS OF MISCELLANEOUS BRANCH
A Special meeting of the Miscellaneous Branch will take place on Monday, March 4, 1935, in ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARK'S PLACE, at 7:30 P. M.
for the purpose of nominating officers for the Miscellaneous Branch for the 1935 term.
All Underwear, Negligee, Corset and Brassiere, Children's Dress and Blouse cutters are urged to attend this meeting.

...EDITORIAL NOTES...

President Dubinsky President Dubinsky's address at the public hearing on Employment Policy before the National Industrial Recovery Board in Washington on February 1, was all the more effective because it was confined to a few essential points. In addition, President Dubinsky chose to argue these points from the premises of the industry which he knows best—the women's garment industry—and refused to be guided by anything but ripe experience in that field.

His demand for a shorter work-week, predicated on the experience in our own industry, where the gradual shortening of work hours across a span of twenty-five years has proved to be the only effective measure for absorbing the unemployed, carried, therefore, added strength and conviction. His insistence upon classified wage scales was fortified by striking examples of how the adoption of such wage scales succeeded in wiping out the sweatshop in its blackest spots, in the "out-of-town" territory, in nearby Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania towns. No less convincing was his plea for labor participation on code-authorities, in support of which he cited the wholesome influence exercised by representatives of the I. L. G. W. U. on bi-party code authorities in our industries.

It is quite impossible, of course, to foretell what influence the mass of evidence presented by the labor spokesmen at the Washington hearings will have on the labor and social-welfare legislation now before Congress. The hearings were called for the purpose of clarifying the attitude of both labor and industry on those burning issues.

The one inescapable impression on those who attended these hearings was, nevertheless, that of challenge, resentment and the assertion of a fighting spirit by the men and women who spoke for the wage-earners of America. Green, Lewis, Dubinsky, Fry, Schneiderman, Tracy, Wharton—all spoke straight from the shoulder, mining no words and courting no favors. It is not the least bit exaggerated to say that not in years has labor's voice been so clearly and so militantly heard from a national platform.

40-Hour Week Won in Toronto

The short, decisive strike of the cloak workers of Toronto has brought them a number of gains in work conditions in addition to a collective agreement with a revived manufacturers' association.

The workers have won their fight for the 40-hour work-week, a four-hour reduction from the time schedules prevailing heretofore; an increase of about 10 cents per hour for pressers, operators and trimmers; abolition of section work, and, also, the contract prohibits shop owners and managers from doing any work at the tables or machines. These are important concessions, which the Toronto cloakmakers' organization may deservedly point to with pride.

The Toronto cloakmakers, however, will do well to place less reliance upon the agreement than upon their own vigilant observance of union work conditions in the shops. In Toronto, associations of employers in the cloak industry may come and go, but it is only union strength that can always be depended upon to guard conditions in the factories.

Along The Mexican Border

One of the revealing surprises of I. L. G. W. U. activity in the past year has been the response to the message of unionism among the Spanish-speaking dressmakers along the Mexican borderline.

The presence of thousands of Spanish-speaking women workers in the needle trades of New York City and of Los Angeles, of course, has been no secret to the leadership of the International. In Los Angeles, the Mexican girls have constituted a majority of the dressmakers for a number of years past, though until recently their attitude towards union affiliation had been cool, timid and unbelieving, and union missionaries among the Spanish-speaking in that district

were no less doubtful of success in interesting the Mexican girls in joining the I. L. G. W. U.

The first breach in the wall which seemed for a long time to segregate the Spanish-speaking workers in the dress industry from their fellow-workers of other races and languages occurred in the general dress strike of 1933. Among the notable achievements of that elemental uprising was the formation of a strong Spanish-speaking branch of the New York Dressmakers' Union, which has since been functioning as loyally and as efficiently as any other division of the great army of organized dressmakers.

Shortly thereafter, the International began lively activity in the Los Angeles dress market and met with an astonishingly warm response from the Mexican workers in that city. Today, there is in Los Angeles a thriving branch of Spanish-speaking dressmakers, second to none in keen allegiance to the I. L. G. W. U. Recently, the success in Los Angeles was followed up by educational campaigning in Dallas, San Antonio, Laredo and several other Southwestern towns close to the Mexican border, where considerable women's and infants' wear industries have been found to be located.

Uniformly, reports from all these points indicate that, after brief recesses of doubt and timidity, the Mexican women dressmakers are embracing the trade union idea with a feeling akin to ecstasy. In most instances it means to them not merely a miraculous improvement of work conditions—hours, wages, factory treatment—but a spiritual awakening. The rapid enrollment of the Spanish-speaking workers of our industry, in all events, is something of which the I. L. G. W. U. is decidedly proud, affirming, as little else could, the truly international character of our movement and of our organization.

The I. L. G. W. U. Sports

If anyone were to have suggested but a mere few years ago that the Ladies' Garment Workers' organization form basketball, soc-

cer, baseball and swimming teams within its locale as part of its educational activity, the suggestion, quite likely, would have been received as Utopian if not a shade worse.

Not because we had at that time any objection, as a matter of principle, to sports as a legitimate element of workers' recreational activity. To the contrary: As pioneers in the field of labor education, the I. L. G. W. U. time and again in the past, emphasized the value of indoor and outdoor recreation, especially for workers employed in such sedentary occupations as are the needle trades. Yet, the realization of such a program of "fun, sports and gaiety" appeared altogether too remote in view of the far more urgent and pressing organizational needs which were confronting us. It seemed as if everybody had agreed that "you have got to build a union, first, before you can think of playing ball or swimming."

Contrast that state of mind with the current attitude in the I. L. G. W. U. toward recreation and sports, realistically reflected in the lively tempo with which sports teams of every variety are sprouting out in every locality where our educational activity is gaining a foothold!

This change of mood actually implies not merely that, as a labor organization, we find ourselves today sufficiently on solid ground in industry to permit a diversion toward the "lighter things of life," but, that as a group, the I. L. G. W. U. has become a much younger organization. 1933 and 1934 have brought to our Union a huge constituency of young men and women, native-born and raised, to whom free, competitive sports are a natural and a wholesome form for self-expression.

To give this normal craving for athletic activity shape and form within union channels and to balance it properly with a workers' educational diet, is a task which our educational management is now beginning to handle on a large, nearly national scale. Like former pioneering efforts undertaken by the I. L. G. W. U. in labor education and in other fields, this undertaking will be keenly watched by the rest of the Labor movement. Our ideal is, to use a classic phrase, a "healthy soul within a healthy body." It is the ideal of a free, unshackled mankind.

An Important Historic Question

